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October 10, 1977

Admiral Stanfield Turner Director, Central Intelligence Washington, DC 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

The 32nd annual conference of the Radio Television News Directors Association, meeting in San Francisco, adopted the attached resolution which is forwarded for your information and consideration. We would welcome any comment you care to make.

RTNDA, which now represents more than 1600 broadcast newspersons throughout the United States, has long been concerned with protecting the rights of electronic journalists in every area of their activity.

Sincerely,

Len Allen

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David Knapp, CBC-TV Montreal, Que., Canada

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TEXT OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 32nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE RADIO TELEVISION NEWS DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

September, 1977

We are citizens first, then journalists. As citizens we have some obligations to co-operate with government agencies. As journalists, our obligations are a good deal more sensitive, and difficult to define. But definition of those obligations is needed because of recent revelations involving journalists, journalism organizations and various governmental agencies, especially those in the investigation and intelligence fields. Guidelines are needed in advance of approaches by governmental agencies for our help. The basis on which such help should be granted, if at all, needs to be studied and debated. The RTNDA Board is directed to study this area and formulate guidelines for member consideration. An RTNDA policy statement in this field may be needed. At the same time, RTNDA should make the strongest possible objections to all governmental agencies who use journalists and journalist groups as "cover" for their activities.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT Routing Slip

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